

Name:  
U.S. History

Date:

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

## **Life In The Colonies – The Diary Of Mary Cooper**

The diary of Mary Cooper gives us insight into many aspects of 18<sup>th</sup>-Century early American life: life on a farm in the middle colonies, life for a woman and housewife in colonial times, and life on Long Island in the 1700s. Please read the selections from Mary Cooper's diary and answer the following questions in complete sentences:

**1. Is a diary a *primary source* or a *secondary source*? Why?**

**2. Describe four jobs that Mary Cooper did on the farm as part of her daily work.**

**3. Why do you think Cooper frequently describes her visits to the Quaker meetinghouse?**

**4. How does Cooper feel about her job providing room and meals for travelers? What details in the diary tell you this?**

**5. Did Cooper live alone on her farm, or did other people live with her? Explain.**

**6. What is Cooper's attitude toward religion? Explain.**

**7. How would you describe the writing style and spelling of most of Cooper's passages? Why do you think she wrote in this way?**

**8. Some of the passages seem more poetic than others. Why do you think certain passages are more descriptive?**

**9. In your opinion, did Mary Cooper live a happy life? Explain.**

**10. Thinking Question: Why do you think Cooper might have decided to write a diary?**